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Letter dated 7 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to draw your attention to the eleventh annual joint consultative meeting between members of the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa at the African Union headquarters on 8 September 2017.

Following the consultative meeting, the members of the two Councils agreed upon a joint communiqué (see annex).

I convey this joint communiqué to you in my capacity as Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, the Security Council body that engaged with African Union colleagues on the attached text.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Tekeda **Alemu**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 7 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint communiqué

1. The African Union Peace and Security Council and the members of the United Nations Security Council held their 11th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting at the African Union (AU) Headquarters, on 8 September 2017, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

2. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reaffirmed the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the mandate of the Peace and Security Council with regard to the promotion of peace and security in Africa as provided for in the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. They also reaffirmed the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the role of regional arrangements in the settlement of local disputes

3. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reviewed matters of peace and security in Africa, in particular, the situation in South Sudan, Somalia and the Lake Chad Basin. They seized the opportunity offered by the 2nd Informal Meeting held on the eve of the 11th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting to assess the partnership between the AU and the United Nations (UN), discussed funding for AU peace and security activities and best means and ways of further strengthening their partnership and deepening cooperation in the area of peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction and development in Africa.

4. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council resolved to forge a more coherent and effective partnership and stressed that common and coordinated efforts undertaken by the two Councils, in matters of peace and security should be based on their comparative advantages, as well as their respective authorities, competencies and capacities.

5. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the signing on 19 April 2017, in New York, of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security by the leadership of the two organizations, which will be instrumental in addressing challenges of promoting peace and security in the African continent across the whole conflict cycle.

6. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council further reaffirmed the partnership in the field of women, peace and security and the important role of women and youth in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and peace building and stressed the importance of their meaningful participation in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

7. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed deep concern over the impact of ongoing crises and conflicts in Somalia, South Sudan and the Lake Chad Basin and exchanged views on ways and means of enhancing their cooperation in addressing these conflicts and their consequences.

On the situation in South Sudan

8. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed concern over the continued fighting and inter-communal violence in South Sudan, which is taking a heavy toll on the civilian population and has resulted in growing numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) as well as refugees in

neighbouring states. They underlined that there can be no viable military solution to the current conflict and urged all parties to renounce violence and recommit themselves to achieving a permanent ceasefire and the resumption of a political process to find a lasting solution to the current crisis through a genuine and all-inclusive national dialogue. The two Councils condemned in the strongest terms the violence and armed clashes that continue to be perpetrated by parties to the conflict. They expressed deep alarm at the numerous and ongoing reports of sexual and gender based violence, the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law and called for those responsible to be held accountable. In this regard, they stressed the imperative of prioritizing national reconciliation, healing and justice, as well as taking all the necessary steps towards the establishment of the Hybrid Court, including mobilization of its funding, with a view to bring sustainable peace and stability in the country.

9. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the continued international, regional and sub-regional engagement in South Sudan including the visit of the Chairperson of the AU Commission to South Sudan in March 2017.The two Councils reiterated their support for the efforts of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and took note of the progress made in the implementation of the decision of the 31st Extraordinary Summit of IGAD held on 12 June 2017 on the convening of the High-level Revitalization Forum of the parties to the 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, including estranged groups, to restore the permanent ceasefire, to fully implement the Peace Agreement and to develop a revised and realistic timeline and implementation schedule towards a free, fair and credible democratic election at the end of the transition period. They also took note of the completion of the pre-convening phase and looked forward to the expeditious convening of the High-level Revitalization Forum. They urged all parties to participate constructively in the Forum. Furthermore, they encouraged continued close collaboration among the IGAD, AU and UN in line with the spirit of the joint press statement of 29 January 2017.

10. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the 24 July 2017 meeting of the Regional Chiefs of Defense Staff to discuss all outstanding issues and determine a definitive timeline for the full deployment of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) Regional Protection Force (RPF). They underlined the need to urge the parties to the conflict to extend full cooperation towards UNMISS, and the deployment of the RPF. They underscored the importance of these regional efforts in resolving the conflict in South Sudan and urged coordination of the various political initiatives being undertaken.

11. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed concern at the growing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) as well as refugees in neighbouring states and acknowledged the continued humanitarian support being extended by the international community to the population of South Sudan affected by violence and severe food insecurity. They urged the parties to the conflict to allow safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance and to cease attacks against humanitarian aid agencies and workers. They appealed to the international community to continue its effort and to also assist in alleviating the burden of the neighbouring countries that continue to receive and host huge numbers of refugees from South Sudan. They commended all members of the international community who have been providing support for AU efforts in addressing the current crisis in South Sudan and called on them to continue their support.

On the situation in Somalia

12. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council noted with satisfaction the significant progress achieved in Somalia in the political and state-institutions building processes. In particular, they welcomed the conclusion of the electoral process in Somalia and the election of President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmaajo on 8 February 2017 for a four-year term, the swift appointment of a Federal Government, the increased representation of women in the Federal Parliament and Government, the increased participation and representation of the people of Somalia in the electoral process, and the peaceful transfer of power. They recognized that this is a critical moment for Somalia, welcomed the New Partnership for Somalia and the Security Pact adopted by Somalia and International partners on 11 May 2017 at the London Conference on Somalia and underscored the importance of effective implementation and mutual accountability. They expressed grave concern at the worsening humanitarian crisis and renewed risk of famine in Somalia and commended the Federal Government of Somalia's response and AMISOM's facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian assistance in support of the Somali authorities.

13. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council underscored the importance of governing in a spirit of national unity in an inclusive manner and of adhering to the political roadmap in order to reach one-person, one-vote elections in four years' time. They encouraged the Federal Government of Somalia to promote a comprehensive reconciliation process that brings about local, regional, and national cohesion and integration in a climate of respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, establish an effective federal political system, conclude constitutional review processes including on resource and revenue sharing, and improve accountability of Somali institutions especially on anti-corruption issues They also emphasized the importance of women participation in these processes.

14. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed grave concern regarding the security situation in Somalia. They reiterated their strong condemnation of attacks by the Al-Shabaab terrorist group. They underlined that this group continues to pose a serious threat in Somalia and urged Somali National Security Forces (SNSF) to take full and effective control of areas liberated from Al-Shabaab. In this regard, they welcomed and encouraged the efforts made by the Federal Government of Somalia and Somali Federal States to strengthen and establish professional, inclusive and accountable security forces; encouraged the Government to intensify those efforts; and, implement Somalia's national strategy and action plan for preventing and countering violent extremism in order to strengthen Somalia's capacity to prevent and counter terrorism and, urged Member States of the United Nations and of the African Union to contribute to this process within the framework of the "Comprehensive Approach to Security". They stressed the need for coordination of efforts among international actors in the area of capacity-building and training for the SNSF, which will further pave the way for the successful transition of security responsibility from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to the SNSF, as recommended by the joint AU-UN strategic review of AMISOM conducted from 15 to 29 May 2017 and requested by Security Council Resolution 2372 (2017).

15. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the continued engagement by the AU Commission and the United Nations, including the visit by the Chairperson of the AU Commission on 18 March 2017 and that of the Secretary General of the United Nations on 07 March 2017, to Mogadishu and the field mission of the Peace and Security Council, undertaken from 23 to 26 March 2017, which were followed by the official visit, on 4 May 2017, to the AU Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, by President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmaajo

where the AU and the Federal Government of Somalia launched the Joint AU-Somalia Task Force to enhance coordination between the various partners in support of Somalia's National Security Architecture (NSA).

16. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the agreement on the Somalia National Security Architecture endorsed by the National Security Council on 8 May 2017, and the Federal Government of Somalia's commitment to conduct a conditions-based, gradual handover of security from AMISOM to the Somali National Security Forces, including conducting joint operations with AMISOM in order to become the primary security provider in Somalia. They urged Member States of the United Nations and of the African Union to contribute to this process and called up on the Federal Government of Somalia to swiftly implement the National Security Architecture.

17. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council commended and paid tribute to AMISOM and its troop and police contributing countries, as well as to the Somali National Security Forces for their sacrifices and efforts in the fight against Al-Shabaab. They acknowledged the critical role of AMISOM to lasting peace and stability in Somalia and welcomed the outcome of the 2017 joint UN-AU strategic review, which was focused on addressing the financial, logistical and operational challenges facing AMISOM.

18. The Peace and Security Council underscored their desire for the provision of more sustainable, predictable and effective support from UN assessed contributions to AMISOM at this critical phase of its operations. It also emphasized the importance of enhancing command and control, generating additional forces, enablers and multipliers and improving coordination within AMISOM.

19. The members of the Security Council stressed the need to enhance predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for African Union-led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council and under the Security Council's authority consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter, urged relevant partners to explore in earnest funding arrangements for AMISOM, bearing in mind the full range of options available to the United Nations, African Union, the European Union, and other partners, and considering the limitations of voluntary funding, that has already been provided by some partners in order to establish secure future funding arrangements for AMISOM, and looked forward to the Secretary-General's report on the future funding of AMISOM. The members of the Security Council reiterated calls for the AU to consider how to provide sustainable funding for AMISOM, and underlined the AU's call for its Member States to provide financial support to AMISOM.

On the situation in the Lake Chad Basin

20. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed grave concern at the ongoing terrorist attacks perpetrated by Boko Haram and other terrorist groups, and the dire humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad Basin caused by the activities of Boko Haram, including large-scale displacement. In this regard, they recognized the connection between trafficking in persons and drugs, sexual violence, illicit arms flows and terrorism and other transnational organized criminal activities, which can prolong and exacerbate conflict and instability or intensify its impact on civilian populations. They emphasized the adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes among other factors on the stability of the Region and emphasized the need for adequate risk assessments and risk management strategies by Governments and the United Nations relating to these factors.

21. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council affirmed their solidarity and full support for the affected populations in the Region

and with the respective Governments in their efforts to address urgent needs of these populations, whilst addressing adverse economic conditions. They welcomed the commitment expressed by the Governments in the Region to combat Boko Haram in order to create a safe and secure environment for civilians, enable the voluntary return of IDPs and refugees, facilitate stabilization and enable access for humanitarian organizations and the important territorial advances made by the Governments in the Region against Boko Haram through the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and payed tribute to all those who have lost lives in the fight against Boko Haram. They welcomed the adoption of the UNSCR 2359/2017 welcoming the deployment of the Group of Five for the Sahel States (G5 Sahel) joint forces for the restoration of peace and security in the Sahel Region.

22. The Peace and Security Council and the Members of the Security Council called on the Governments in the Region to ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular, international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

23. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council affirmed the primary responsibility of Member States to protect civilian populations in their territories, in accordance with their obligations under international law, and called on the Governments of the Region, and as relevant the United Nations and other actors to prioritize human rights protection concerns.

24. The Peace and Security Council and Members of the Security Council encouraged Governments in the Region to ensure women's full and equal participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, including in countering Boko Haram and other terrorist groups. They welcomed the initial efforts in the Region to address women's representation, and strongly encouraged the further development, implementation and funding of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security by Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria and the Republic of Benin. They encouraged all Regional organizations engaged in peace and security efforts in the Region to ensure that gender analysis and women's participation are integrated into their assessments, planning and operations.

25. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council recalled all communiqués of the Peace and Security Council on Boko Haram, including that of its 484th meeting held on 29 January 2015 and they recognized the continued support of the AU as well as other international partners to the MNJTF. They welcomed and encouraged the Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LBC) and Benin to continue their efforts in the fight against Boko Haram and implementation of the AUPSC communiqués and acknowledged the need for an effective and strategic relationship between the Peace and Security Council and the Security Council, to enable both institutions to support stability and development in the Lake Chad Basin.

26. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the efforts of Governments in the Region and of regional and subregional organizations, as well as the hospitality provided by host communities for the millions of displaced people, the majority of whom are women and children, who are uniquely impacted, and urges Governments in the Region, donors and relevant international non-governmental organizations to urgently redouble their efforts and ensure close coordination, including between development and humanitarian actors, in particular to enhance early recovery, food security, improve living conditions, and increase livelihood opportunities.

27. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council further welcomed the $672 million in humanitarian assistance pledged at the Oslo

Humanitarian Conference on Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region held on 24 February 2017 and urged swift fulfilment of these pledges and the disbursement of funds, in order to prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis and to begin to address endemic development needs. They encouraged the international community's greater support to strengthen the operational capability of the MNJTF to further the Region's efforts to combat Boko Haram and other terrorist groups. They commended the international community for its continued support and appealed for further support in order to enable the MNJTF to more effectively discharge its mandate. Furthermore, they urged members of the international community to provide support in a way that directly responds to the needs highlighted in the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plans of each country of the region.

28. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed continued regional and international efforts towards promoting peace, security and stability in the Lake Chad Basin. They welcomed, in particular, the visit to the region by the members of the Security Council, in March 2017 and by the Peace and Security Council in July 2017. They encouraged the United Nations Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, the President of the World Bank Group, and the President of the African Development Bank to undertake a joint visit to strengthen the focus on and commitment to the Region by the international community and mobilize resources.

29. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council encouraged the Governments of the Lake Chad Basin, MNJTF, regional organizations, and the broader international community to redouble their efforts on all fronts, in order to ensure not only the defeat of Boko Haram, but also to ensure that the root causes of the crisis are holistically addressed. In this context, they encouraged the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), together with the Lake Chad Basin Commission, to develop a comprehensive and common strategy that effectively addresses the drivers that contributed to the emergence of Boko Haram and ISIL, with a particular focus on longer term development needs.

30. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council agreed to convene their 12th annual joint consultative meeting in 2018, in New York, United States of America, on a date to be mutually agreed.